



“He was a man, take
him for all in all
I shall not look upon his like again...”
Hamlet 1.2

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

This unit is designed to acquaint you with information concerning the life of times of William Shakespeare. Your assignment is to conduct research about some aspect of William Shakespeare’s life or the times he lived in and produce a product that may take the form of a podcast, I-Movie, instructional video, sketches, postcards, letters, etc.

Process

1. Research a topic in the library, with the support of your Teacher and the Librarians. Consult the resources listed at the bottom of your question to find relevant materials that will help you answer your question(s). You are required to use **2 books and 2 internet sites**.
2. Use NoodleTools.com to create note cards, a bibliography, and an outline for your research.

Product

(Due Monday, March 19)

1. Prepare and submit 15 note cards concerning your research topic:
 - 3 cards should feature quotations & My Ideas
 - 3 cards should feature paraphrasing
 - 9 cards should feature My Ideas
2. Create and Outline in Noodle Tools.
3. Complete a product specific to your project, as indicated in your topic description.

Hints and Reminders

- ✚ Carefully note the form that you final product needs to be in and plan accordingly.
- ✚ Reference books **do not leave** the library. You may photocopy appropriate pages for free.
- ✚ Find an 1-3 page overview of your topic, explaining the who, what, where, when, and how of your topic.
- ✚ Identify key search terms of your topic and rely on these to frame your research.
- ✚ Type in the word <North-Macie> in Eagle Eyes for a list of related Web sites.

Project Timeline

Based on the requirements of the project create a timeline or plan for your work. Use the timeline of the TFA project as a model.

Day 1 (March 12)

In class:

Homework

Day 2 (March 13)

In class:

Homework

Day 3 (March 14)

In class:

Homework

Day 4 (March 15)

In class:

Homework

Day 5 (March 16)

In class:

Homework

TOPICS

1. England has a rich history filled with the magnificent deeds of kings and queens and ordinary citizens. Your task is to **create a timeline outlining the major events and changes that took place during the Protestant Reformation and England’s split from the Roman Catholic Church. Use the website TimeRime to create a web-based timeline.**

The Timetables of History (choose appropriate years)
Timelines World of History pp. 272-302.
Timelines of the Arts and Literature pp. 85-138
Illustrated History of Britain pp. 43-85.
<http://TimeRime.com>

2. Many kings and queens were the subjects of Shakespeare’s plays including Henry VIII. Your task is to **write a biographical sketch of Henry VIII. Place particular emphasis on his split with the Roman Catholic Church and the six wives he married. Tell students which wife gave birth to Elizabeth I. Find pictures or illustrations of Henry VIII and his six wives and use Museum Box to create an online biographical sketch.**

Henry VIII (Woodward book)
Henry VIII (Hackett book) use index
Henry VIII (Scarbrick book) use index
Six Wives of Henry VIII (Weir book) Introduction and pp. 1-12
The Wives of Henry VIII (Fraser book) use index
Biography Reference Center – look up “Henry VIII”, Anne Boleyn, etc.
Museum Box at <http://museumbox.e2bn.org/>

3. Elizabeth I was one of England’s greatest monarchs. Her reign is often called the Golden or Elizabethan Age. You have time traveled and are Elizabeth I. **Discuss your life up until 1558 when you became Queen of England. Be sure to mention your imprisonment under Queen Mary Tudor, your education and musical talent, and your appreciation of the dramatic arts. Your product will take the form of a series of journal entries which are placed in a time capsule for us to discover today.**

Elizabeth the Great (Jenkins book) pp. 11-60
Elizabeth I (Chidsey book) various pages
Elizabeth I (Ridley book) refer to the index
The First Elizabeth (Erickson book) refer to the index.
The 100 Most Influential Women of All Time pp. 58-61.
Women Around the World and Through the Ages pp. 202-203
Biography Reference Center under “Elizabeth I”

4. Elizabeth I ascended to the throne of England in 1558 and reigned until 1603. She faced many challenges including war with France and naval invasion by Spain. **You have time traveled and are Elizabeth I. How did you stir your nation to greatness in world discoveries, literature, poetry, and drama? Be sure to mention your religious tolerance and oratory skills, particularly with your soldiers at Tilbury. Your product will be broadcast to your troops in the form of a podcast.**

Elizabeth the Great (Jenkins book) pp. 11-60

Elizabeth I (Chidsey book) various pages

Elizabeth I (Ridley book) refer to the index

The First Elizabeth (Erickson book) refer to the index.

The 100 Most Influential Women of All Time pp. 58-61.

Women Around the World and Through the Ages pp. 202-203

Biography Reference Center under “Elizabeth I”

5. Shakespeare had the uncanny ability to capture the speech, manners, dress, and occupations of people from all walks of life. His inspirations may have come from strolling about Tudor London. **Design a Google Lit/Trip. Include any buildings, you would have actually encountered during Shakespeare’s time. Make sure that you put the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, and the Globe Theatre in your Google Lit/Trip.**

London a Social History pp. 34-65

London the Biography of a City pp. 35-51.

Essential Shakespeare Handbook pp. 19-21

Shakespeare’s England pp. 33-57 (best one to start with)

Shakespeare (Burgess)

Walking Shakespeare’s London 20 Original Walks in and Out of London – various pages

6. Sir Francis Drake was the most famous sea captain who roved the oceans during Elizabeth’s I rule. **You are Francis Drake. Don’t be modest in your presentation. Highlight your circumnavigation of the globe, role against the Spanish Armada, piracy (using your ship The Golden Hind). How do you think your efforts fostered Shakespeare’s work? Your product will be an NPR type interview podcast.**

Sir Francis Drake (Benson) refer to the index.

The Sea King (refer to the index)

Sir Francis Drake

Drake at Cadiz

Biography Reference Center

7. Sir Walter Raleigh was one of the most colorful figures in English history. He was a soldier, explorer, writer and businessman. You have traveled back in time and are now Sir Walter Raleigh. **Describe your accomplishments regarding exploration, your role in the Spanish Armada victory, and your publishing influence. How did you meet Elizabeth I? Your product will be a Facebook page in the guise of Sir Walter Raleigh.**

The Great Lucifer: A Portrait of Sir Walter Raleigh (refer to the index)
Shakespeare's England Vol. 1 (Chapter I The Age of Elizabeth by Sir Walter Raleigh
The Last Elizabethan (refer to the index)
Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest for El Dorado (refer to the index)
Biography Reference Center (good site for an overview)

8. Considered the greatest dramatist the world has ever known and the finest poet who has written in the English language, William Shakespeare is a colossus in the world of literature. It is some time after Shakespeare's death. You are a reporter with the *British Broadcasting Co.* **Your assignment is to produce an I-Movie about the life of William Shakespeare and touch upon his major accomplishments. What do you think accounts for his great appeal as a playwright? Previous experience using I-Movie is a requirement to choosing this question.**

The Bard of Avon: the Story of William Shakespeare
Young Person's Guide to William Shakespeare
Shakespeare (Burgess) selected pages
Facts About Shakespeare (selected pages)

9. A young man from a small town without any college education, family wealth or connections moves to London in the 1580's and becomes the greatest playwright of all time. Perhaps his unlettered background has spawned the debate about his authorship and even identity. Shakespeare's works have been attributed to Christopher Marlowe. **Who was Marlowe and why do scholars think that he could have been Shakespeare? Research the debate about the authorship of the "Shakespearean" plays. Imagine that Marlowe is on trial for authoring Shakespeare's plays are you are covering the case for a newspaper. Your product will be a series of sketches and short reports from the trial aiming to provide the pros and cons of the question of who authored the plays.**

The World of Shakespeare & His Contemporaries (Hussey) pp. 64-78, 118.
Shakespeare of London (Chute) pp. 74-76.
The Mysterious William Shakespeare The Myth and the Reality pp. 138-141.
Shakespeare: The Essential Reference to His Plays, His Poems ... p. 403
Biography Reference Center – Marlowe, Christopher

- 10.** William Shakespeare prospered financially. You are the executor of his estate and are reading his will to his inheritors. **They are wondering how did he earn his money? What were the sources of his income? Be sure to mention Shakespeare’s acting, playwrighting, and ownership of a theatre. What obstacles did he encounter in terms of plagiarism of his work and loss of income? Your product will be a written will that contains explanations about the above questions.**

Shakespeare and His Plays (Burton) pp. 18-19.
Bard of Avon (Stanley) “Despite his wits...”
Shakespeare of London (Chute) pp. 93-121
Shakespeare for Kids pp. 61-66.
The Age of Shakespeare (Kermode) pp. 103-124
Facts About Shakespeare pp. 131-155.

- 11.** During Shakespeare’s time a scribe rewrote William’s work from dirty papers, but a printer set type or prepared the printing press from one of three (or perhaps all three versions of the play) Example: 1. the dirty papers. 2. the scribe’s version. 3. the printer’s book of the play. **You are a Shakespearean archivist with a Ph.D. Discuss the problems with this method of copying. How do we know if these are really Shakespeare’s plays as he wrote them? What is a quarto? What is a folio? Produce your own folio presentation by following the instructions in Shakespeare for Kids pp. 122-123.**

Shakespeare the Globe and the World pp. 172-179
The First Folio of Shakespeare pp. 1-28
Shakespeare for Kids pp. 122-123
Shakespeare’ England p. 140
Cambridge Guide to the Theatre p. 980 under texts

- 12.** William Shakespeare coined many words and used familiar words in new ways. It is one of his finest legacies. Refer to the book, *Shakespeare for Kids* pages 36-37. **List and define (if necessary) 4 nouns, 3 verbs, 3 adjectives, and 3 adverbs that are attributed to Shakespeare. Refer to the “Index and Concordance” p. 1763 in the back of *The Homebook of Shakespearean Quotations* p. 1763 and cite the play or plays where Shakespeare used them. Refer to *Coined by Shakespeare* for other ideas as well. Now follow the directions on page 37 of *Shakespeare for Kids* and coin 7 new words. Your product will be a Shakespeare primer of words, definitions, and illustrations.**

Shakespeare for Kids p. 36-37
The Homebook of Shakespeare Quotations
Essential Shakespeare Handbook pp. 40-44.
Coined by Shakespeare, various pages

- 13.** Attending the theatre was an enormous popular pastime during Shakespeare’s time. Two of the most famous places to watch plays were The Theatre constructed by James Burbage and The Globe associated with Shakespeare. **You have just gotten home from your annual London theatre vacation. Your product will be two playbill/programs of plays that you saw accompanied by Directors notes that refer to the theatre space.**

The Essential Shakespeare Handbook pp. 25-30.
Shakespeare’s Theatre (Hodges) pp. 35-88.
Bard of Avon p. “The year 1599 brought...”
Life and Letters in Tudor & Stuart England pp. 116-123.

- 14.** England experienced a “Golden Age of Drama” under Elizabeth I. **You are a History professor at a large, state university who has been asked to prepare a short video lecture about Elizabethan theatre or drama. Be sure to include the following: (1) chief characteristics of Elizabethan theatre or drama in terms of subjects and themes and (2) major Elizabethan playwrights with brief summaries of their works. (Feel free to bring some props, hats, etc.)**

The Essential Shakespeare Handbook p. 28-30.
Will in the World pp. 199-214.
Shakespeare (Burgess) pp. 98-120
The Facts About Shakespeare pp. 89-115.

- 15.** What was the actual theatre like in Shakespeare’s time? **Provide a detailed architectural diagram with dimensions or a three dimensional model so that your peers can picture Shakespeare’s plays being performed. Show them images or pictures of the new Globe Theatre in London and the Blackfriars Theatre in Staunton, Virginia.**

Shakespeare for Kids p. 82.
The World of Shakespeare and His Contemporaries pp. 38-51.
Shakespeare’s theatre (Hodges) pp. 50-86.
Shakespeare and his Theatre
Shakespeare’s Theatre

- 16.** Elizabethan and Jacobean (under James I) England were very different historical periods. **You are a citizen who has lived through both periods. Write a series of postcards from the beginning to the end of that period that describe some good and bad events that you personally witnessed under each ruler. You definitely need to mention the influence of the Puritans and the influence they had on drama.**

Essential Shakespeare pp. 17-23.
Shakespeare: The Essential Reference.. pp. 314-315.
Shakespeare’s England pp. 91-108
Elizabethan Popular Culture pp. 161-177.

17. Tucked away behind the U.S. Capital is a living monument to the memory of William Shakespeare – the Folger Shakespeare Library. **You are a library docent charged with giving a potential donor a tour of the Folger. You need to tell her: (1) who founded it and why it was founded; (2) how it serves the public; (3) about some outstanding parts of the collection, and (4) about some past and/or upcoming events. Your product will be a Google History/trip of the area and the Folger.**

The Folger Library pp. vii-21.

Folger Shakespeare Library pp. 1, 4-6, 9-11, 16-18+

18. The title of Shakespeare’s play, “*Midsummer Night’s Dream*” is derived from one of England’s popular holidays and festivals, Midsummer’s Eve/Day (June 23 and 24), but there is reference to another holiday, May Day. Your British-based company has decided to throw a costume party to showcase its new online game by the same name. **You need to find the following: (1) the origin of Midsummer’s Eve/Day and May Day and (2) pictures of traditional disguises or costumes. Your product will be a series of historically correct costume sketches for a Midsummer Night’s Dream costume party.**

Where Shakespeare Set His Stage pp. 173-

Medieval Holidays and Festivals pp.57-69

The Book of Days Around the World (Turn to June 23 and 24)

Costumes and Styles by Hansen pp. 55-57

The Concise History of Costume and Fashion pp. 91-93

English Costume from the Fourteenth through the Nineteenth Century by Brooke pp. 192-224.

19. The character Puck in *Midsummer Night’s Dream* is a pixie/fairy servant to Oberon, King of the Fairies. **Overall, what purpose did fairies and folk stories serve the people during the ages and in society, in general? Where did the notion of myth/legends/folk tales appear, and why? What was the role of the fairies in the play? Write your own folktale about characters/fairies, such as Puck, using a Shakespearean style.**

Oxford Companion to the Theatre p. 188.

Shakespeare Essential Reference p. 191.

Shakespeare’s England Vol. II “Fairies” pp. 536-540.

20. Dance and music were highly valued in Elizabethan times. Elizabeth I herself was an enthusiastic participant and patron of the arts. **You are the dance master for Elizabeth I and she has asked that you teach her courtiers a new dance for a May Day festival. Your product will be an historically accurate, instructional video to Elizabethan music using steps described in the resources below. You can view footage of recreated period dance from excerpts of *Elizabeth I* to get an idea of how Elizabethan dance might have looked.**

CD of Elizabethan music

DVD of scenes from Elizabeth I

Galliards handout